



Hurricane Laura Management Report – August 29, 2020 #6

INCIDENT OVERVIEW

EPA is working with federal and state partners to respond to the impacts of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Laura. Hurricane Laura made landfall at the southwest Louisiana coast near Cameron, Louisiana at approximately 1 am on August 27, 2020 with maximum sustained winds at 150 miles per hour (mph) and transitioned north over Cameron Parish toward north central Louisiana. According to the National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center (NHCCPHC), Hurricane Laura downgraded to a Tropical Storm just across the Arkansas state line, transitioned across Arkansas to the northeast and became a Tropical Depression approximately 95 miles west-northwest of Memphis, Tennessee with storm remnants heading northeast across Kentucky. NHCCPHC reports flood waters in Louisiana will not fully recede for several days, with minor to moderate flash flooding forecasted in Louisiana, Arkansas, and northern Mississippi. Remnants of Laura are moving to the east at 28 mph and forecasted to strengthen as it emerges into the northwest Atlantic and is absorbed into a stronger low on Monday.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

- Two EPA Region 6 Lite Incident Management Teams (IMT) (Incident Commander, Operations, Planning, Logistics, Safety and emergency response) remain on standby and prepared to respond if requested in Texas and Louisiana, respectively.
- EPA has received 31 National Response Center (NRC) reports related to Hurricane Laura since the hurricane happened. Two reports were on the BioLab facility in West Lake, LA. Twenty (20) of the 31 NRC reports are in USCG Area of Responsibility of operation, and 11 in EPA Area of Responsibility.
- On August 27, 2020, a fire occurred at the BioLab Facility in Lake Charles, LA. The facility manufactures chlorine pool products. EPA responded with resources along with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), and Louisiana State Police (LSP). As of the afternoon of August 28, 2020, the site was stabilized with fire reduced to smoldering areas. Since no significant concentrations of airborne chemicals had been detected within the residential area since the start of the incident, EPA air monitoring support was completed and demobilized. The LSP remain in charge of the incident with a presence until the site is deemed no longer posing a threat. The shelter-in-place was lifted at 2:30 pm on August 28, 2020.
- At 3:00pm on August 28, 2020, EPA was notified of a report of 10,000 - 40,000 BBLs of a crude oil spill into secondary containment of a storage tank located in a marsh south of Calcasieu Lake, Cameron Parish, LA caused by Hurricane Laura. The incident is in the USCG Area of Responsibility (AOR). USCG reported that Plains All American is responding and has report there is no new discharge or impact to the waterway outside of secondary containment. Plains American has set up an ICP in Morgan City, LA.

- Texas submitted a Resource Request Form (RRF) to FEMA requesting that EPA provide assistance to TCEQ with air monitoring, facility assessments, and response to hazardous material releases and oil discharges at an estimated cost of \$1.6M. The completion date of the MA is September 3, 2020.
- TCEQ is evaluating impacts on state Superfund sites and coordinating with EPA on evaluation of federal Superfund sites.
- As of 6:00 pm on August 28, 2020, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) reported that out of 171 Drinking Water Systems in the affected area in Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine and St. Augustine counties, 111 systems have been assessed and of those 84 were found to be operational, 27 of the operational systems were under a boil water advisory, and 27 systems were inoperable.
- As of 6:00 pm on August 28, 2020, TCEQ reported that out of 57 waste water systems in the affected area in Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine, San Augustine counties, 50 systems were assessed and of those 37 were found to be operational, 5 were found to be partially operational, 3 were inoperable and 6 will require a site visit.
- TCEQ and the Civil Support Team have 9 air monitoring teams and 1 mobile air monitoring van operating in the Beaumont area.
- TCEQ brought 14 ambient air monitors in the Houston area back online and is preparing to bring 10 ambient air monitors in the Beaumont area back on-line. Specific information on the status of the Texas ambient air monitors can be found at the TCEQ Air Quality

website, www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/monops/air-mon.

- As of 12:00 pm on August 29, 2020, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) reported that 118 public drinking water systems are experiencing storm-related water outages and of those 105 are currently under a Boil Water Advisory, throughout the state, due to Tropical Storm Marcos and Hurricane Laura. Five Louisiana teams are assessing wastewater facilities.
- According to LDEQ 7 ambient air monitors in southwest Louisiana were impacted by the storm. Specific information on the status of the Louisiana ambient air monitoring network can be found at the LDEQ Air Quality website, <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/>.

COORDINATION WITH STATE AGENCIES

- EPA is participating in State of Louisiana twice daily coordination calls to maintain situational awareness of State preparedness activities.
- On August 28, 2020, the TCEQ started post-storm contacts and assessments with high risk and priority facilities in potentially impacted areas.
- On August 30, 2020, EPA will participate in a Louisiana ESF-10 call with LDEQ, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office (LOSCO), LSP, and United States Coast Guard (USCG), to discuss ESF-10 targets assessed by LDEQ.
- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) continues to coordinate with the Louisiana Poison Control Center (PCC) regarding calls related the storm. The PCC reported no calls at this time related to Hurricane Laura.
- The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (E&E) continues to report no significant impacts from the storm.

NATIONAL PRIORITY LIST SITES AND REMOVAL SITES

- On August 28, 2020, EPA completed Phase 1 – Rapid Response Assessment for Superfund NPL Sites along the coasts of Texas and Louisiana. Of the 28 Louisiana Superfund Sites assessed, 26 sites do not require further review while two (2) sites will be inspected under Phase 2. Of the 48 Texas Superfund Sites, 45 sites do not require further review while three (3) sites will be inspected under Phase 2.
- One removal site that is part of an NPL site, American Creosote-DeRidder, was visually assessed on August 28, 2020 by the Removal Program. Impacts to the site were observed and included fallen trees across the site path, fallen tree damage to perimeter fencing, reduced freeboard at source areas, and poly-sheeting displaced off of a waste stockpile.

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

The five commercial nuclear power plants in Louisiana and Texas remain operational with no reports of impact from the storm.

AIR MONITORING

The TAGA arrived in the Houston area today and is preparing to assist the TCEQ on Sunday, August 30, 2020 with air monitoring in communities and industrial areas as facilities come back online following shutdowns or damages due to the hurricane and flooding.

TCEQ requested the EPA ASPECT collect IR imagery, spectral, and photographic and air monitoring data to assist in determining possible damage and releases from impacted areas.

ASPECT conducted aerial assessments on August 28, 2020 with a total of 18 data collection runs made over two flights. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the EPA Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGL) and the TCEQ short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs). Chemical detections were made on four of the runs. The maximum detections were less than the AEGL-1 and AMCV levels. IR imagery did not show the presence of any chemical plumes. Severe weather remaining in the area shortened flight operations.

Based on the request from TCEQ, EPA's mission will focus on air monitoring. In addition to ASPECT flying 37 facilities from Friday through Monday, the TAGA and roving air monitoring teams will be deployed. The TAGA is scheduled to begin monitoring on Sunday, August 30, 2020, in the Beaumont/Port Arthur area. Starting August 29, 2020, one roving air monitoring team during the day and one team at night will focus on the West Port Arthur Neighborhood and the El Vista Neighborhood then moving into the mid-county area, then on to the Charlton Pollard neighborhood. An additional day team and additional night team will be added tomorrow. Per TCEQ, TGLO and USCG, there will not be a need for other types of operations based on the rapid needs assessments they have performed.

FUEL WAIVERS

Currently, there are no requested, pending, or approved fuel waivers for Texas or Louisiana. The one potential request from the Texas Oil & Gas Association (TXOGA) was rescinded after TXOGA consultation with the Texas Governor's Office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENT

National Hurricane Center Forecast Maps for Tropical Hurricane Laura:



